

Health Care Summit Rapid Response #6:

-- What the President Really Means About Getting All Americans into the "Same Pool" --

Assertion 6 (2:31 p.m.):

The president just wrapped up his analysis of Republicans' use of "high-risk" state pools in addressing pre-existing conditions as a "useful tool." We agree. But we differ when he says that the real goal is to get every single American into the "same pool." What does the president really mean by that? Here you go, with some help from our Senate friends at the Republican Policy Committee...

In talking about the need to "broaden the insurance pool," the president is advocating **mandating** that individuals buy "government-approved" coverage. Yet, when talking about an individual mandate in a January 2008 [debate](#), then-Senator Barack Obama lambasted then-Senator Hillary Clinton for the individual mandate included in her health care proposal:

"Now, under any mandate, you are going to have problems with people who don't end up having health coverage... What are you going to do about it? ...Are you going to garnish people's wages?"

Yet that is what the House and Senate bills would do—they empower the IRS to go after Americans who do not buy "government-approved" insurance. Many may argue that these provisions violate the President's campaign [promise](#) not to raise taxes on individuals with incomes under \$250,000. If you'll recall, then-Senator Obama claimed that, under his plan, any family making under \$250,000 a year would not see their taxes increase... "not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes."